

Reformation Europe

How could the Protestant Reformation take off from Wittenberg, a tiny town in Saxony, which contemporaries regarded as a mud hole? And how could a man of humble origins, deeply scared by the devil, become a charismatic leader and convince others that the Pope was the living Antichrist? Martin Luther founded a religion which to this day determines many people's lives, as did Jean Calvin in Geneva one generation later. In this new edition of her best-selling textbook, Ulinka Rublack addresses these two tantalising questions. Including evidence from the period's rich material culture, alongside a wealth of illustrations, this is the first textbook to use the approaches of the new cultural history to analyse how Reformation Europe came about. Updated for the anniversary of the circulation of Luther's Ninety-five Theses, *Reformation Europe* has been restructured for ease of teaching, and now contains additional references to 'radical' strands of Protestantism.

Ulinka Rublack is Professor of Early Modern European History at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of St John's College. She is author of *The Astronomer and the Witch: Johannes Kepler's Fight for His Mother* (2015), an Observer Book of the Year, editor of the *Oxford History of the Protestant Reformations* (2016) and *Hans Holbein, The Dance of Death* (2016), a Spectator Book of the Year. She was awarded the Bainton prize for her landmark study *Dressing Up: Culture Identity in Renaissance Europe* (2010).

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Reformation Europe

Second Edition

Ulinka Rublack
University of Cambridge



Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-01842-6 – Reformation Europe
Ulinka Rublack
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi – 110002, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107018426

DOI: 10.1017/9781139087728

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First edition published 2005

Second edition published 2017

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ International Ltd. Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-107-01842-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-60354-7 Paperback

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Contents

<i>List of Figures and Map</i>	page vi
<i>Acknowledgements for the First Edition</i>	xi
<i>Note on the Second Edition</i>	xii
<i>Chronology</i>	xiii
Prologue: Prophecy	1
1 Locating the Reformation: Martin Luther and Wittenberg	20
2 Disseminating Luther's Reformation	56
3 People and Networks in the Age of the Reformations	92
4 John Calvin and Geneva	124
5 Calvinism in Europe	144
6 A Religion of the Word	175
7 Protestant Material and Emotional Cultures	211
Epilogue: a New Cultural History of the Reformation	234
<i>Further Reading</i>	243
<i>Index</i>	248

Figures and Map

Figures

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 0.1 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>The Pope-Ass</i> , 1520.
By permission of the Stiftung Luthergedenkstätten
in Sachsen-Anhalt. | page 2 |
| 0.2 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>The Pope-Ass</i> , 1545. By
permission of the British Library. | 3 |
| 0.3 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>Adam and Eve</i> , Heritage
Images, Hulton Fine Art Archive, Gettyimages. | 6 |
| 0.4 Raphael, <i>Pope Leo X</i> . Credit: imagno, Hulton Fine Art
Collection, Gettyimages. | 10 |
| 0.5 <i>Luther and Calvin</i> , portraits on vases produced in China during
the eighteenth century. Credit: Victoria and Albert Museum,
London. | 16 |
| 1.1 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>Martin Luther</i> , 1520. Credit:
Ullstein Bild, Gettyimages. | 21 |
| 1.2 <i>The Burning of Girolamo Savonarola in Florence</i> . Credit:
Leemage, Gettyimages | 23 |
| 1.3 Title-page of Leo X's Papal Bull against Luther, 1520. Credit:
Print Collector, Hulton Archive, Gettyimages. | 25 |
| 1.4 Hieronymus Nützel, <i>View of Wittenberg</i> , 1591. Credit:
By permission of the Stiftung Luthergedenkstätten in
Sachsen-Anhalt. | 29 |
| 1.5 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>Frederick III, Elector of Saxony
(1463–1525)</i> . Credit: Heritage Images, Hulton Fine Art
Collection, Gettyimages. | 30 |
| 1.6 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>Allegory of Law and Grace</i> , after
1529. Credit: Heritage Images, Hulton Fine Art
Collection, Gettyimages. | 35 |
| 1.7 Albrecht Dürer, <i>Philip Melanchthon as a Young Man</i> , 1526.
Credit: Roger Viollet Collection, Gettyimages. | 36 |

List of Figures and Map	vii
1.8 <i>Andreas Karlstadt</i> . Credit: Photo 12, Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	39
1.9 <i>Thomas Müntzer</i> . Credit: Gettyimages.	42
1.10 <i>Knight being Captured during the Peasants' War</i> , woodcut. Credit: DEA Picture Library, Gettyimages.	45
1.11 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>Katharina of Bora</i> , 1529. Credit: DEA Picture Library, De Agostini, Gettyimages.	48
1.12 Lucas Cranach the Younger, detail of a copy of <i>The Raising of Lazarus</i> , with Luther, Melanchthon, Spalt and Bugenhagen. Credit: James L. Amos, Corbis Historical, Gettyimages.	51
1.13 <i>Philip Melanchthon as a Mature Scholar</i> . Credit: Leemage, Hulton Fine Art Collection, Gettyimages.	54
2.1 Woodcut of Luther as a pious monk in a contemporary sermon, after Cranach. Credit: Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	57
2.2 The title-page of Luther's translation of the Bible. Credit: Ullstein Bild, Gettyimages.	67
2.3 Albrecht Dürer, <i>Men's Bath</i> , c. 1496–7. Credit: Gettyimages.	71
2.4 and 2.5 Lucas Cranach the Elder, <i>Passional Christ and Antichrist</i> , 1521. Credit: By permission of the Stiftung Luthergedenkstätten in Sachsen-Anhalt.	75
2.6 Martin Luther portrayed as 'stout doctor', depicted full-size with a swan. Credit: Smith Collection/Gado, Archive photos, Gettyimages.	79
2.7 Lucas Cranach the Elder, Wittenberg altar-piece. Credit: Ullstein Bild, Gettyimages.	87
2.8 Wittenberg altar-piece, detail of Luther preaching. Credit: Ullstein Bild, Gettyimages.	88
3.1 Hans Holbein, <i>Desiderius Erasmus</i> , 1523. Credit: Print collector, Hulton Fine Art Collection, Gettyimages.	93
3.2 Erasmus, <i>Handbook of the Christian Soldier</i> . Credit: Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	97
3.3 Hans Asper, <i>Ulrich Zwingli</i> , 1531. Credit: Ullstein Bild, Gettyimages.	99
3.4 François Clouet, <i>Margaret of Navarre</i> . Credit: DEA/G. Dagli Orti, De Agostini Picture Library, Gettyimages.	105
3.5 Anon., <i>Martin Bucer (1491–1551)</i> . Credit: Heritage Images, Hulton Archive, Gettyimages.	111
3.6 Titian, <i>Charles V at the Battle of Mühlberg</i> , 1548. Credit: PHAS, Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	118

viii	List of Figures and Map	
4.1	Anon., <i>Johan Calvin</i> , 1553. Credit: Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	126
4.2	Detail from <i>The Peasant Dance</i> by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, 1566. Credit: Gettyimages	129
4.3	Anon., sixteenth-century view of Geneva. Credit: Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	135
4.4	Jean de Lery's <i>History of a Voyage to the Land of Brazil</i> . Credit: Historical Picture Archive, Gettyimages.	140
4.5	<i>Theodore de Bèze</i> (1519–1605). Credit: Ullstein Bild, Gettyimages.	142
5.1	<i>Massacre of Vassy</i> . Credit: Print collector, Gettyimages	145
5.2	<i>Protestant Siege of Chartres</i> . Credit: Universal Images Group, Gettyimages	152
5.3	Bernabé Polo, <i>Triumphal Entry of Alessandro Farnese into Brussels</i> , 1578. Credit: Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	160
5.4	Jan Steen, <i>The Baker Arent Oostwaard and his Wife, Catharina Keizerswaard</i> , 1658. Credit: Gettyimages.	163
6.1	Anon., <i>Hans Behem</i> . Credit: Bildagentur-Online, Universal Images Group, Gettyimages.	176
6.2	<i>Cosmic Signs over Wittenberg</i> . Credit: Gettyimages.	182
6.3	<i>Chronicon Carionis</i> . Credit: Gettyimages.	193
6.4	Martin Luther's grapho-relic. Credit: Hulton Archive, Gettyimages.	194
6.5	Rembrandt van Rijn, <i>The Mennonite Preacher Anslo and his Wife</i> , 1641. Credit: Heritage Images, Gettyimages.	198
6.6	Christoph Murer, <i>Allegory on Good Government and the Justice of the Nuremberg City Councillors</i> , 1597/8, stained glass. By permission of the Städtische Museen der Stadt Nürnberg, Eigentum der Gemälde und Skulpturensammlung der Stadt Nürnberg.	209
7.1	Bartholomeus van der Helst, <i>Banquet of the Amsterdam Civic Guard or the Celebration of the Peace of Münster</i> , 1648. Credit: Gettyimages.	213
7.2	Castle church in Gottorf. Credit: Ullstein Bild, Gettyimages.	215
7.3	Gerard Houckgeest, <i>Interior of the Oude Kerk in Delft</i> , 1654. Credit: Fine Art Images, Gettyimages.	217
7.4	<i>Jonah and the Whale</i> . Credit: Heritage Images, Gettyimages.	222
7.5	Jan Steen, <i>Adolf Croeser of Delft and his Daughter Catharina</i> , 1655. Credit: GraphicaArtis, Gettyimages.	224

List of Figures and Map	ix
7.6 Seventeenth-century garden created by Duchess Sybille of Württemberg in Leonberg. Credit: Christoph Rublack	228
8.1 Anon., <i>Dream of Frederick the Wise</i> , 1617. Credit: Gettyimages	236

Map

Religious confessions in Europe at the end of the sixteenth century, from Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, <i>Early Modern Europe</i> , 1450–1789 (Cambridge, 2006).	94
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Acknowledgements for the First Edition

This book has been written for Bob Scribner, who originally was meant to write it, but died of cancer before being able to do so. I have also written it for him as a teacher whose sheer enjoyment of history, wit, imaginativeness, clarity and boldness was so wonderful to experience. The finishing of the original German manuscript was made possible through a much appreciated additional term of leave granted by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and a slightly different version of this book has already been published as a Fischer Taschenbuch in 2003. No one could wish for a more supportive series editor than Tim Blanning, and Elizabeth Howard and Alison Powell unfailingly provided prompt advice at Cambridge University Press. I am also extremely grateful to friends and colleagues who discussed parts of the manuscript, or helped me in other ways, in particular Hans-Christoph Rublack, Francisco Bethencourt, Daniela Hacke, Scott Dixon, Mary Laven, Jack Goody, Lyndal Roper, Philip Benedict, Robin Briggs and David Lowe. Francisco I also thank for making life so unimaginably happy while I completed and translated this book in Paris, during my leave and two pregnancies, in the middle of our ever more joyous life with João and Sophie.

Note on the Second Edition

This second edition is published in 2017, as the five-hundredth anniversary of the circulation of Martin Luther's Ninety-five Theses, is commemorated across the world. Cultural historical approaches have generated much fruitful research during the past decade. Recent writing focuses far more on Wittenberg as the locale where Luther shaped his ideas and from which he disseminated them, as well as on his embodied subjectivity and close relationships with other male reformers – ideas which I found to be crucial for an interpretation of the Reformation when I wrote the first edition. There is now substantial interest in the history of emotions and the senses in relation to the Reformations, as well as in the global history of Protestantism. I should point out that this is a companion volume to R. Po-Chia Hsia's outstanding *The World of the Catholic Renewal, 1540–1770* (2nd edn, 2011) in the series.

I have changed some of the structure of the book in order to clarify these arguments and approaches, and have shortened chapters so as to make them easier to use in teaching. In addition to more material on 'radical' strands of Protestantism, I have included more illustrations, to underline the importance of visibility and materiality as they shaped and reflected people's understandings of themselves and the world. I have also updated references to some of the most relevant secondary literature.

I have benefited from my dialogue with colleagues in the course of editing the *Oxford Handbook of the Protestant Reformations*, published in 2016, and am grateful to all reviewers of this present book's first edition who made me aware of shortcomings as well as the potential of a cultural historical approach informed by the anthropology of religion and sociology of knowledge. I am furthermore grateful to my colleagues in Cambridge, who bring such energy and intellectual brilliance to the study of the Reformations, as well as to Michael Watson from Cambridge University Press for his support over many years and Katherine Law for stellar support during the preparation of this manuscript for publication.

Chronology

- 1378–1417 Great Schism
- 1402 Jan Hus begins to preach at the Bethlehem church in Prague
- 1415 Hus is burnt in Constance
- 1439 Weakening of conciliar movement and reinforcement of papal power
- 1456 Invention of the printing press and movable metal type in the West
- 1466 or 1469 Birth of Erasmus
- 1483 Birth of Luther
- 1484 Birth of Zwingli
- 1485 Utraquism is recognised as a legal religion in Bohemia
- 1509 Birth of Calvin
- 1512 Luther takes his doctorate and begins lecturing in Wittenberg
- 1512–17 Fifth Lateran Council
- 1516 Publication of Erasmus's New Testament in Greek and an original Latin translation, challenging the approved Vulgate version
- 1517 Luther's ninety-five theses
- 1518 Zwingli begins his ministry in Zurich
- 1519 Election of Emperor Charles V; Leipzig disputation between Eck, Luther and Karlstadt
- 1520 Luther threatened with excommunication by Pope Leo X; Luther publishes three programmatic treatises: *Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*, *A Prelude on the Babylonian Captivity of the Church* and *The Freedom of a Christian*
- 1521 Luther formally excommunicated; the Sorbonne judges Luther's Leipzig arguments to be wrong; meeting of the Imperial Diet in Worms; Frederick of Saxony protects

xiv Chronology

- Martin Luther on the Wartburg, where in 1522 he translates the New Testament
- 1521–5 Wide dissemination of Reformation ideas in urban and rural areas of Germany and Switzerland
- 1523 *Religionsgespräche* in Zurich and consolidation of the Reformation
- 1524 Erasmus challenges Luther in *De Libero Arbitrio*
- 1524–5 Peasants' War
- 1526 Battle of Mohács; beginning of church and school visitations in Saxony; Balthasar Hubmaier and his supporters settle in Nikolsburg
- 1530 Confession of Augsburg prepared by Melancthon and presented to the Imperial Diet
- 1531 Death of Zwingli in the second Kappel War; Zwingli replaced by Bullinger as the leading Zurich reformer
- 1532 Reformation in Geneva
- 1534 Act of Supremacy in England, acknowledging Henry VIII as supreme head of the English church; first big wave of anti-Protestant persecution in France; first complete edition of Luther's Bible translation finished; election of Pope Paul III
- 1534–5 Anabaptists take over Münster
- 1536 Death of Erasmus; first version of Calvin's *Institutio Religionis Christianae*; Gustav Vasa confiscates church property in Sweden
- 1536–8 Calvin's first stay in Geneva
- 1537 Danish church order under Christian III; re-opening of Copenhagen's university with a curriculum similar to Wittenberg's; introduction of the Reformation in Norway; Henrician Reformation introduced in Ireland
- 1541 Calvin begins his Reformation in Geneva; first French edition of his *Institutio Religionis Christianae*
- 1542 Lutheran church order in Schleswig-Holstein
- 1544 Second wave of anti-Protestant persecutions in France
- 1545 Opening of Council of Trent
- 1546 Death of Luther
- 1545–7 Schmalkaldic War; death of Henry VIII of England and Francis I of France
- 1548 Imperial Interim
- 1549 *Consensus Tigurinus*; first edition of the English *Book of Common Prayer*; upper Hungarian cities declare their support for Protestantism

Chronology

xv

- 1552 War of the Princes in Germany; second, more reform-orientated version of the *Book of Common Prayer*
- 1553–8 Mary Tudor attempts to re-establish Catholicism in England
- 1555 Peace of Augsburg; reinforcement of persecution of Protestants in the Netherlands
- 1556 Charles V abdicates
- 1558 Elizabeth I becomes queen of England
- 1559 Academy of Geneva founded; first national synod of French Protestants; John Knox returns to Scotland; the structure of the Anglican church is established by Parliament; Christian III of Denmark dies
- 1559–62 *Auto de fe* against Spanish ‘Protestants’ in Seville and Valladolid
- 1560 Philip Melanchthon dies; consolidation of the Scottish Reformation
- 1562 Massacre of Vassy; First War of Religion in France begins
- 1563 Council of Trent ends; a Reformed catechism is formulated in Heidelberg; Frederick III establishes Calvinism
- 1564 Death of Ferdinand I; death of Calvin and succession of Theodore Beza as moderator of the Company of Pastors
- 1566 Hedge preaching and iconoclasm in the Netherlands
- 1567 Duke of Alba reinforces persecution of Protestants in the Netherlands
- 1568 Transylvanian estate assembly recognises Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed and anti-Trinitarian churches
- 1570 End of Protestant reform movement in Italy
- 1571 First Protestant church order in Sweden; Battle of Lepanto
- 1572 St Bartholomew’s Day massacre in France; Holland and Zeeland decide to fight against Spain
- 1575 *Confessio Bohemica* of Reformed Utraquists and Bohemian Brothers
- 1576 Holy League of French Catholics formed
- 1577 German Lutherans agree on Formula of Concord
- 1578 Beginning of re-Catholicisation in inner Austria
- 1581 Declaration of independence of northern provinces in the Netherlands; *Second Book of Discipline* in Scotland
- 1585 Antwerp taken by the Spanish
- 1589 Accession of Henry of Navarre (converts to Catholicism in 1593)

xvi	Chronology
1593	Council of Uppsala, Sweden–Finland commits itself clearly to Lutheranism
1598	Edict of Nantes
1603	Death of Elizabeth I of England; accession of James I
1607	First church order in Norway
1608	Protestant Union founded in Germany
1609	Protestant League founded
1618	The Calvinist Frederick V of the Palatinate elected king of Bohemia; outbreak of the Thirty Years War
1642–6	First English Civil War
1648	Peace of Westphalia; recognition of united northern provinces in the Netherlands as autonomous from Spain; Second Civil War in England
1649	Execution of Charles I of England (30 January) and dissolution of the monarchy (17 March)